



ECA ALUMNI

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK

<http://exchanges.state.gov/alumni/index.htm>



Continuing the Dialogue

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) carries out international exchanges that include more than 30,000 individuals on an annual basis. All of these exchanges work to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other nations. The over 800,000 alumni of these exchange programs continue these efforts throughout their lifetimes. The State Department is increasingly offering support for these alumni initiatives.

Organizing

The energy, enthusiasm, and expertise of the hundreds of thousands of ECA alumni are immense. The State Department is supporting alumni's own efforts to maximize their impact through the formation of a global community of former exchange participants as well as local communities through:

- creation of a web based global community where alumni from all over the world can share ideas, projects, experiences
- creation of country and program specific web based communities
- support for the formation and maintenance of alumni associations

Alumni Making Impacts Upon Returning Home

ECA exchange program alumni are working all over the world to improve the state of our planet and all human societies. Many have become major leaders:

- 35 alumni of ECA programs have gone on to win Nobel prizes
- Over 200 alumni of ECA programs are currently or were formerly Heads of Government, or Chiefs-

ALUMNI SNAPSHOT

- IV Alumnus, Gyorgy Makula, founded a Police Officers' Association for Police belonging to the Roma ethnic minority in Hungary. He brought the idea back with him from the U.S. where he was inspired by the leaders of policemen associations.
- Nataliya Shturkhetska (FLEX '03) founded the new Sviatoshyńska YMCA in Kiev, Ukraine. Ms. Shturkhetska credits her FLEX experience with instilling the value of community service in her.
- Former voluntary visitor, Mr. Bart Katureebe, a leading Ugandan lawyer was recently appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Uganda. Mr. Katureebe participated in a Voluntary Visitor (VolVis) program on "The U.S. Judicial System and Role of Congress" in 1999.
- U.S. Fulbright Alumnus, David Shield, coordinated the Second National Conference on drug policy in Argentina, with help from the Intercambios Civil Association. More than 350 people attended, among them: legislators, judges, health professionals, and former drug abusers.
- Citizen Exchange alumnus Prakash Mani Sharma argued and won a landmark verdict in the Nepali courts that ruled children who have no documented parents can acquire Nepali citizenship, a hugely important issue for the children of single parents throughout South Asia.
- Belizean Fulbright Alumnus, Frantz Smith, won the prestigious 2005 UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Young Scientist Award.

of-State, as well as over 1,500 members of Parliament

- Tony Blair, Hamid Karzai, Mohamed Yunis, Ruth Simmons, Javier Solana, John Updike, Rita Dove, Werner Herzog, and Giscard d'Estang are all ECA alumni

Support for Alumni

ECA is supporting alumni everywhere with funds that enhance alumni initiatives including:

- Offering consultancy services to local governments and NGOs
- Programs in English and Civic Education for low-income children
- Training for journalists
- Business training for women
- Multi-lateral policy dialogues
- Leadership training programs
- Recruitment of new exchange participants
- Mentoring programs for recently returned exchange participants
- Teacher-training seminars
- Organization of citizen advocacy groups
- Public Lectures on key issues
- Drug Prevention Campaign

Educational and Cultural Affairs

Each year the number of alumni in the ECA alumni network increases with the more than 30,000 exchanges managed each year by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Exchange programs include the Fulbright Program and the International Visitor Program. Through its range of academic and professional exchanges, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs seeks to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries.

